

OUTGOING
AIRGRAM

Department of State

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Origin

Info

SECRET

Classification

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SENT TO: Amembassy BONN G-122

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Some concern has been expressed here that wording of part of QBAL and wide dissemination given to QBAL might create impression, contrary to established US policy, that we would react to interruption of Berlin access by resorting to airlift rather than seeking to reopen surface access through measures contemplated April 4 Berlin Contingency Planning paper.

To minimize chance of such misunderstanding State-Defense agree Embassy should:

1. Seek agreement for striking part of paragraph 1 which reads "In event of blockade, there will be urgent need to show spontaneous Allied reaction by immediate introduction of airlift" and substituting "Although it should be understood that no decision has been taken to initiate a full-scale airlift in event of Soviet-GDR blockade, reasonable course of action is to be prepared to initiate such airlift should situation ultimately dictate this decision. QBAL planning is based on this understanding and such planning is not to be construed as an indication of an advance decision or commitment on part of Four Governments to implement."

2. Review distribution of QBAL to assure distribution restricted on need to know basis. Distribution of complete plans should be severely restricted and annexes only furnished where appropriate.

3. In subsequent revisions, prepare planning to extent feasible in manner permitting separate issuance on need to know basis of political and economic and of military portions.

Defense - Mr. Hillenbrand

Hertel
(B.R.)

Dir. Deleg.
(OMS
Only)

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NOV 30 1959 P.M.

Drafted by:
EUR:GER:GPA:TDM:Kohler:ew 11-18-59

Airgram transmission and classification approved by: EUR - Foy D. Kohler

Chargeman:

GER - Mr. Hillenbrand

Defense - Mr. Irwin (in draft)

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